

**Second Preliminary Amendment
dated September 9, 2005
SHEPHERD
PCT/GB2003/003064**

Amendments to the Claims:

Listing of Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A sliding pivot means for a support element which is used with a stanchion which is hinged to an item with which it is used and from which it can be unfolded, in which one end of the support element is rigidly attached to the stanchion and the opposite end is provided with a substantially transverse portion extending therefrom, comprises a slide, a sleeve provided with a slide pin extending in substantially the same plane as the sleeve, and a socket substantially parallel with said transverse portion, and in which the sleeve is located on the transverse portion, and the pin is located in the slide, the sleeve being adapted to rotate about the transverse portion, and the pin to rotate in the slide, the pin moving along the slide when the stanchion is rotated about its hinge, and the socket being adapted to receive the transverse portion when the stanchion is in a fully unfolded position.
2. (Original) A sliding pivot means as claimed in Claim 1 in which the slide is arcuate in shape, and in which the arcuate shape is substantially parallel with the arc defined by the movement of the transverse portion when the stanchion is rotated about its hinge.
3. (Original) A sliding pivot means as claimed in Claim 2 in which the socket is provided between the item and the slide, and in which the stanchion and the support are sufficiently resilient to allow their unattached ends to be sufficiently separated to allow the

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transverse portion to travel around the end of the slide and access the socket when the pin is disposed at the end of the slide.

4. (Original) A sliding pivot means as claimed in claim 3 in which the stanchion and the support are sufficiently resilient to hold the transverse portion in position when it is disposed in the socket.

5. (Previously Presented) A sliding pivot means as claimed in Claim 1 in which the item is a table, and the stanchion is a table leg.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) An item to which a stanchion is hinged and can be unfolded, comprising a support element and sliding pivot means, in which one end of the support element is rigidly attached to the stanchion and the opposite end is provided with a substantially transverse portion extending therefrom, and in which the sliding pivot means comprises a slide, a sleeve provided with a slide pin extending in substantially the same plane as the sleeve, and a socket substantially parallel with said transverse portion, and in which the sleeve is located on the transverse portion, and the pin is located in the slide, the sleeve being adapted to rotate about the transverse portion, and the pin to rotate in the slide, the pin moving along the slide when

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the stanchion is rotated about its hinge, and the socket being adapted to receive the transverse portion when the stanchion is in a fully unfolded position.

8. (Original) A table to which a leg is hinged and can be unfolded comprising a support element and sliding pivot means, in which one end of the support element is rigidly attached to the stanchion and the opposite end is provided with a substantially transverse portion extending therefrom, and in which the sliding pivot means comprises a slide, a sleeve provided with a slide pin extending in substantially the same plane as the sleeve, and a socket substantially parallel with said transverse portion, and in which the sleeve is located on the transverse portion, and the pin is located in the slide, the sleeve being adapted to rotate about the transverse portion, and the pin to rotate in the slide, the pin moving along the slide when the stanchion is rotated about its hinge, and the socket being adapted to receive the transverse portion when the stanchion is in a fully unfolded position.

9. (Original) A table as claimed in Claim 8 in which four legs are hinged and can be unfolded, and in which a support element and sliding pivot means are provided for each leg.

10. (Original) A table as claimed in Claim 9 in which the four legs are comprised of two substantially U-shaped leg members, the interconnecting portions of which are hinged to the underside of the table.

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11. (Original) A table as claimed in Claim 10 in which the four support elements are comprised of two substantially U-shaped support members, the interconnecting portions of which comprise the transverse portions, and in which the support members are substantially the same shape and size as the U-shaped leg members, and in which the leg members and support members are rigidly connected at their two outer ends.
12. (Canceled)
13. (Previously Presented) A sliding pivot means as claimed in Claim 4 in which the item is a table, and the stanchion is a table leg.
14. (New) A furniture leg apparatus comprising a leg, a support element disposed substantially parallel to the leg, and a socket, in which the leg is attached to an item of furniture in a hinged arrangement, in use, in which an outer end of the support element is attached to the leg such that an inner end of the support element is biased towards the leg, in which the inner end of the support element has a substantially transverse portion extending therefrom, in which the socket faces away from the leg, and in which the transverse portion is spaced from the leg and contained in the socket when the leg is unfolded, in use, characterized in that the transverse portion is provided with guide means comprising a sleeve rotatably mounted on the transverse portion and a slide pin extending from the sleeve, and in

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which the furniture leg apparatus further comprises a slide in which the slide pin is located, and along which it moves when the leg is rotated, in use.

15. (New) The furniture leg apparatus of Claim 14 wherein the slide is arcuate in shape, and wherein the arcuate shape is substantially parallel with an arc defined by the movement of the transverse portion when the leg is rotated about its hinge.

16. (New) The furniture leg apparatus of Claim 15 wherein the socket is provided between the item of furniture and the slide, and wherein the leg and the support element are sufficiently resilient to allow their unattached ends to be sufficiently separated to allow the transverse portion to travel around the end of the slide and access the socket when the pin is disposed at the end of the slide.

17. (New) The furniture leg apparatus of Claim 16 wherein the leg and the support element are sufficiently resilient to hold the transverse portion in position in the socket, in use.

18. (New) The furniture leg apparatus of Claim 14 wherein the leg is a table leg.

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19. (New) The furniture leg apparatus of Claim 18 wherein the leg is part of a U-shaped two-leg component, the transverse interconnecting portion of which is hinged to the underside of the table.
20. (New) The furniture leg apparatus of Claim 19 wherein the support element is part of a U-shaped two-support element component which is substantially the same shape as the U-shaped two-leg component and is disposed substantially parallel to the U-shaped two-leg component, and wherein the U-shaped two-leg component and the U-shaped two-support element component are fixed together at their outer ends, such that the transverse interconnecting portions of the U-shaped two-leg component and the U-shaped two-support element component are biased together, but can be pulled apart by hand, in use.
21. (New) An item of furniture provided with at least one furniture leg apparatus comprising a leg, a support element disposed substantially parallel to the leg, and a socket, in which the leg is attached to said item of furniture in a hinged arrangement, in which an outer end of the support element is attached to the leg such that an inner end of the support element is biased towards the leg, in which the inner end of the support element has a substantially transverse portion extending therefrom, in which the socket faces away from the leg, and in which the transverse portion is spaced from the leg and contained in the socket when the leg is unfolded, in use, characterized in that the transverse portion is provided with guide means comprising a sleeve rotatably mounted on the transverse portion, a slide pin extending from

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the sleeve, and a slide in which the slide pin is located, and along which it moves when the leg is rotated, in use.

22. (New) The item of furniture of Claim 21 wherein the item of furniture is a table.

23. (New) The item of furniture of Claim 22 wherein the table is provided with four legs, in which the four legs comprise two U-shaped two-leg components, the transverse interconnecting portions of which are hinged to the underside of the table, and in which the four support elements comprise two U-shaped two-support element components substantially the same shape as the U-shaped two-leg components and disposed substantially parallel to the U-shaped two-leg components, and in which the U-shaped two-leg component and the U-shaped two-support element components are fixed together at their outer ends, such that the transverse interconnecting portions of the U-shaped two-leg components and the U-shaped support element components are biased together, but can be pulled apart by hand, in use.